

Enclosure of letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 6, 1876

An extraordinary occurrence was brought to light as an inquest held on the body of a man in South London. In a workroom where many young girls were at work a mouse suddenly made its appearance on a table, causing, of course, considerable commotion and a general stampede. The intruder was seized, however, by a young man who happened to be present, but the mouse slipped cut of his hand, and, running up his sleeve, came out between his waistcoat and shirt at the neck. The unfortunate man had his mouth open, and the mouse, on the look-out for some convenient place of concealment, entered the man's mouth, and he, in his fright and surprise, swallowed it. That a mouse can exist for a considerable time without much air has long been a popular belief, and was unfortunately proved to be a fact in the present instance, for the mouse began to tear and bite inside the man's throat and chest, and the result was that the unfortunate fellow died after a little time in horrible agony. Several witnesses corroborated the above facts, and medical testimony as to the cause of death having been given, a verdict of "accidental death" was returned.